

THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

May 2019 Public Draft

- The county should consider the hydrologic continuity between ground and surface water when managing water resources.
- 3. The county should address water resource concerns by the appropriate scale, such as a catchment, subwatershed or sub-basin for surface waters and by aquifers for groundwater.
- The county should support watershed planning processes conducted under RCW 90.82 as a framework for comprehensive water resource management.
- The county should involve affected stakeholders in groundwater, watershed and stormwater basin planning.
- 6. The county should support and implement the county-adopted water resource plans addressing watersheds, stormwater, sewerage, groundwater, water supply and solid waste, including the Northern Thurston County Ground Water Management Plan and the South Thurston County Aquifer Protection Strategy.
- The county should protect public water supplies from contamination to avoid the cost of developing new water sources.
- 8. The county should manage water resources for multiple beneficial uses. Use for one purpose should preserve opportunities for other uses, while maintaining overall water quality. When conflicts arise, the natural system should be given priority, particularly if the use would be detrimental to anadromous fish or public safety.
- The county should monitor both surface water and groundwater to evaluate program effectiveness, establish long-term trends for both water quality and water quantity, and provide for the early detection of pollution, to minimize the damage and the cost of resource restoration, and to provide a basis for adaptive management.

10. ACTION NEEDS:

Implement the policies and action recommendations contained within county adopted water resource plans.

Identify and implement a long-term funding source to provide for water resource protection services including investigation and enforcement.

Establish a unified source of funding for water resource protection efforts to reduce multiple and piecemeal fees and charges for water protection efforts.

Work with other jurisdictions to merge their water quality monitoring data into a common Geographic Information System thereby making the information more accessible to the public.

11.9. Annually distribute a report card on county-wide water quality that includes an evaluation of the data by watershed and the type of water resource.